(c) The newspaper report refers to issue of FM Radio lincences to private agencies. The Government have decided to allow 100% Indian owned companies to set up 108 FM Radio Stations in 40 cities in the first phase, which will supplement and not replace the services being provided by All India Radio. The basic objective behind licencing the private FM Stations is to give radio listeners more choice by making available more programmes with localized flavour in terms of content and relevance, in addition to generating employment opportunity by bringing the private sector resources to the Radio Broadcasting sector.

Irregularities and bungling in Patna Doordarshan Kendra

†842. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale irregularities are being committed in the Doordarshan Kendra, Patna and large scale financial bungling has also taken place there;

(b) whether Government have also conducted any investigation into the present state of affairs and functioning of the Doordarshan Kendra, Patna; if so, the result of the investigation ; and

(c) the names of the persons against whom Government have taken action as per the outcome of the investigation together with the kind of action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Comprehensive Review of Prasar Bharati

843. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review Committee headed by Mr. N.R. Narayanamurthy had carried out a comprehensive review of Prasar Bharati and made some recommendations to streamline the working and structure of the Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations have been examined;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether they have been implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The view on some of the recommendations of the Committee is to be taken by the Prasar Bharati, whereas in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. Government is in the process of consulting the Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, representatives of the Staff and Employees Unions etc. before taking a final view on the report. The Report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to Ministry of I and B to seek their views.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Punjabi Programmes on Delhi Doordarshan Centre

844. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Punjabi programmes put across by Delhi AIR and Doordarshan Centres now that Punjabi alongwith Urdu has been declared as the second official language by the Delhi Administration; and

(b) by when Doordarshan, Delhi would start telecasting news bulletins in Punjabi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati have reported that the present quantum of Punjabi programmes broadcast from Delhi is considered adequate. Prasar Bharati is launching round the clock Punjabi Channel from Jalandhar w.e.f. 5th August 2000.

(b) Regional language news bulletins are telecast from regional kendras and not from Delhi. Therefore, there is no proposal to introduce news bulletin in Punjabi from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi.

Setting up of Low Power Earth Stations by Doordarshan

845. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: